CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT			
SUBJECT	Floods in Gdynia	DATE DISTR.	10 September 1954		
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- THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)
- 1. The greatest damage inflicted by the torrential rain in Gdynia on 21 June 1954 was to the quarter west of the railway station, which is mostly inhabited by workers employed in the Gdynia Shipyards. About 50 families were deprived of a roof over their heads, the sewage system became silted and went out of commission, and the water system and electrical network were destroyed.
- 2. The damage caused directly or indirectly by the rain led to the inhabitants loud expressions of discontent with the government policy towards the Polish population. The most irrequently heard comments were on the following lines:
 - a. The Polish Government knows how to criticize Britain and Holland, blaming the capitalists for having failed to safeguard their citizens against floods. Yet it had done nothing about the shifting sand dunes and it has allowed the pre-war sea defenses to be destroyed.
 - b. The Polish Government is much more interested in building Houses of Culture than in the housing of its citizens. Much energy and the citizens' money is used to erect official edifices, but no one cares about repairs to the houses inhabited by workers. Naturally, a storm destroys what is left of the decaying houses. It is high time that someone should take up those matters and put things in order in Poland.

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